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APPENDIX B

STATE DEPARTMENT'S EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS ON KOREA

Foreword on Procurement

It is recognized that the problem of procurement is assigned to the SubCommittee on Procurement, but the situation with regard to procurement of materials concerning both north and south Korea is such that it is impractical to discuss exploitation of materials on those areas without noting the status of procurement. Except during the Korean hostilities, little effort has been made to procure foreign language material concerning the Republic of Korea and north Korea. Even in the hostilities, procurement and handling were not systematized well. At present, procurement is carried out on a very small scale and with very little planning. The deficiencies in procurement, which admittedly is a difficult problem, impose a serious limitation on intelligence through exploitation of foreign language materials.

Intelligence Dependence on Exploitation of Foreign Language Materials

The dependence of DRF on exploitation of foreign language materials is parallel to that of other agencies involved in intelligence work on Korea. So far as can be determined, there is no officer of the US Government other than the few engaged in translation and exploitation work who has adequate knowledge of Korean to use intelligence materials readily in that language. Moreover, materials concerning Korea are in several languages other than Korean, particularly Russian, Japanese, and Chinese. Lastly, the ROK Government and private agencies issue little material concerning Korea in English -- the only important items being the regular publication of the Bank of Korea, a semi-official English-language paper in the ROK, and handouts of the ROK Office of Public Information.

There are also two factors reducing dependence on foreign language materials. The Korean governments do not issue any great amount of material, and in the case of the ROK, studies that normally would be made by the local government are often made by the US. Second, the need for extensive data is reduced by the fact that conditions and policies are generally uniform within the two governmental areas and that US interests are affected heavily only by a few critical problems.

Benefit of Additional Exploitation

It is difficult to evaluate the benefits of additional exploitation of foreign language materials, because there has been so little procurement of foreign language materials that there is little basis for judgment. At times and on certain subjects during the Korean hostilities, however, exploitation of foreign language materials was a valuable intelligence source. The case-study of the north Korean regime by a Department of State mission to Korea in 1950, for example, was based primarily on exploitation of captured Korean-language materials. While normal procurement procedures probably would not prove so effective as this special effort, they should help fill major gaps in information. On the whole, the benefits of additional exploitation would pertain to basic intelligence rather than current intelligence.

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Present Coverage of Foreign Language Publications

Principal coverage is of the main ROK newspapers and, understandably on a less regular basis, of the main north Korean newspapers. Laws and decrees of the ROK are translated. There is very little coverage of periodicals, and almost none of books. Periodicals may prove to be an important source of intelligence. Few books are published now in the ROK, but those that are, are of value. Articles on north Korea are appearing more frequently than before in Russian publications, and probably will also appear in Communist Chinese and other Communist publications.

Language Exploitation Facilities

The only Korean language facilities in Washington of which DRF has knowledge are those of FDD, since the recent death of Mr. Eastlake of the Department of State's translations services. The Embassy in Seoul has difficulty in maintaining a full staff of capable translators and interpreters, and can do little exploitation of foreign language materials, other than coverage of the ROK press, which is done in telecommunication form by USIA and in mimeographed form by a private Korean group working under contract to the Embassy. This latter is an exceptionally competent group and could be used for translation and exploitation on a broader scale.

Korean Civil Assistance Command, a subordinate agency of the UNC, maintains a joint translations center with the UN Korean Rehabilitation Agency, and the UN Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, which translates primarily laws and decrees of the ROK. Fifth Air Force and CINCPAC G-2 maintain sizable staffs of Korean translators: since the hostilities, these may do some work of benefit to military intelligence but their work in the area of the Department of State's interest is of marginal value or duplicative of other work -- such as the translation of daily Korean newspapers.

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